

ABSTRACT

Apparatus for recording and replaying telephone audio messages containing DTMF tones includes a DTMF decoder that senses and decodes the DTMF tones into text and stores the text with the audio message in a storage device. The apparatus also includes a text-to-speech converter that converts the text representations of the DTMF tones to spoken words. The spoken words may replace the DTMF tones in the stored audio messages. The apparatus can initiate a telephone call by replaying the stored DTMF tones or by converting the stored text into DTMF tones. The apparatus is implemented as a part of a integrated receiver decoder (IRD) set-top box. A display device coupled to the IRD set-top box displays the text numbers while the audio messages are replayed using audio circuitry coupled to the set-top box.

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